



February 23, 2025

"Being Real"

Luke 6:27-38

**WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE
A TIME FOR GATHERING AND QUIET MEDITATION**
*Welcome. We are so glad you have joined us for worship today.
We would love to connect with you and support
how God is moving in your life.*

*Please visit www.saintjamespres.org/contact to share
how we can be of support!*

**Please stand in body or in spirit*

ORDER FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Leah Bruno

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Seth Thomas

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Jessica Parks

The way of Christ turns the world upside down.

God's ways are not our ways.

It moves us beyond retribution
and cycles of violence.

God's ways are not our ways.

It leads us to enemy-love
and scandalous forgiveness.

God's ways are not our ways.

It calls us beyond reciprocity into radical giving.

God's ways are not our ways.

So let us commit our way to the Lord together
**until our righteousness shines like the dawn
and our justice like high noon.**

***HYMN OF PRAISE**

"God is Calling Through the Whisper" - GTG 410

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Christ,

**the economy of your love is beautiful,
expending goodness
and extending lines of forgiveness
beyond our imagining.**

**The economy of our love
is stingy and crooked.**

We invest love where it can be repaid.

We spend mercy where it yields gain.

We advance blessing we can bank on.

We hold grudges with interest.

**We do all of this with no recognition
of how deeply indebted we are to you.**

**Forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors,
we pray with our whole hearts.**

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

***THE PEACE**

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40 pg. 510-512

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Beside Still Waters"
Bernard Hamblen

Dave Nelson, Tenor
Leah Bruno, Piano

SERMON READING

Luke 6:27-38 pg. 64-65

SERMON

"Being Real"

Rev. Dr. Seth Thomas

***HYMN OF RESPONSE**

"O God, in a Mysterious Way" - GTG 30

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

JOYS & CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY** "For the Life That You Have Given" - GTG 717
For the life that you have given, for the love in Christ made known,
With these fruits of time and labor, with these gifts that are your own;
Here we offer, Lord, our praises; heart and mind and strength we bring;
Give us grace to love and serve you, Living what we pray and sing.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***SINGING WELCOME AS CHILDREN RETURN TO SANCTUARY**

Welcome, children, welcome, we are glad you're here.
Welcome, children, welcome. Now to God draw near.

***HYMN OF COMMITMENT** "Christ is Alive!" - GTG 246

WE GO INTO THE WORLD AS GOD'S AMBASSADORS

***BLESSING & CHARGE**

POSTLUDE

*As our worship concludes, our service begins.
We invite you to join us for fellowship following worship. Please introduce
yourself to those new to you and extend a welcome of peace and
friendship to everyone.*

Next Week, March 2, 2025
“Being Changed” Luke 9:28-36

GODLY PLAY: Parable of the Pearl

Jerome Berryman says that “it is important for children to encounter parables during childhood so they can develop the ability to hear with their own ears what Jesus was communicating when he spoke in parables.” Our parable boxes use two dimensional materials to help reiterate that these are Jesus’s words and stories to us. The wondering questions used for parable lessons are designed to encourage children to see that there are deeper meanings in the parables than what they might initially encounter.

We hope you will join us at 10:15 for our intergenerational memory verse time. After memory verse time The Godly Play room will open at 10:30am for students, adults will stay upstairs for worship. Students will be brought upstairs for the final hymn.

GODLY PLAY TRAINING - Today

We will be holding a Godly Play training class today February 23rd from 12-4pm, lunch provided. This training is for anyone who is wanting to become a Godly Play storyteller or door person or anyone who is just wanting to learn more about Godly Play. Email cfm@saintjamespres.org if you have any questions or would like to join us.

YOUTH GROUP - Today

Calling all middle and high schoolers! Our monthly meeting will be on February 23rd from 5:30-7:30pm. Join us for dinner, discussion, and games.

PUB THEOLOGY - TOMORROW February 24

Join us on the 2nd and 4th Monday's from 6:30-7:30pm at Archer Ale House in Fairhaven. Childcare and carpooling are available at St. James beginning at 6:15pm and ending at 7:45pm.

Led by Jimmy and Jessica Parks, we'll explore themes of Christian ethics-ideas about good, evil, and the in-between, and how we live them out in everyday life. This is not a lecture or Bible study, but an opportunity to have an open discussion in a relaxed, welcoming setting. Jimmy and Jessica will facilitate the discussion and provide resources for deeper engagement, if desired. Outside readings are not required for participation but will allow for a richer conversation. Please reach out to jimmyjamesjimbo@gmail.com if you would like the resources used for discussion or if you have any questions.

BELL CHOIR

The bell choir will rehearse on Thursdays from 6-6:45pm, in the Horizon Room. If you're interested in playing with us, please see Jenny Sue for more information. The more hands, the merrier!

JOY IN THE JOURNEY

Is it possible to experience joy no matter the circumstances? This 4 week class for Lent, focused on the book of Philippians, helps us know the source of true joy, establishes a foundation for our faith, and how we might love and serve others. The class starts Sunday, March 9 at 9:00am downstairs, and is facilitated by Randy Pries.

BINGO

We will be holding our annual potluck and BINGO night Friday, March 7th from 6-8pm. Bring your favorite dish to share and join us for a time of great food, fellowship, games, and prizes. There is a sign up sheet in the horizon room for what dish you would like to contribute.

BOOK CLUB - TOMORROW

The St. James book club is currently reading *The House of Doors* by Tan Twan Eng. The novel, set in the 1920s British colony of the Federated Malay States, tells the stories of the local residents and visitors, including a fictionalized version of William Somerset Maugham. We will meet the third Monday in March, March 17th, at 7pm on Zoom. Email Tracy at cfm@saintjamespres.org for the Zoom link. Books are available in the church office.

MOVIE NIGHT!

Come join us on Sunday March 16th from 4-6:30pm to view the 1989 film **Romero**. We will view the movie and then have a short discussion after. We will have popcorn but feel free to bring your favorite movie snack to share!

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

Can't make it to Pub Theology but want to be a part of an open conversation about life, theology, current events, and the Church? Grab coffee with Seth, Jessica, and Jimmy on Thursdays from 8:30-9:30 am at Makeworth Coffee (1201 N State St).

BELLINGHAM COMMUNITY PARTNERS

We are once again joining with Lowell Elementary school to provide snacks for children who may need them during the school day. We are asking for donations of individually wrapped nut-free snacks. Items can be left in the tub in the narthex or outside Tracy's office. This will be an ongoing need until the school year ends in June. Our goal is 100 snacks/month.

Lowell is also in need of mentors and volunteers to read with children at the school. Please contact cfm@saintjamespres.org if you have any questions or are interested in volunteering.

LECTIONARY TEXTS

For anyone wishing to study the lectionary or worship texts for this week February 23rd:

Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40 (worship)

Luke 6:27-38 (sermon)

Genesis 45:3-11

1 Corinthians 15:35-38

PRAYERS, PRAISES, AND UPDATES

If you have a prayer request or update you would like to share, please email office@saintjamespres.org.

THIS WEEK AT ST. JAMES

Monday, 2/24	4:00pm, St. James Fitness, open to all 6:30pm, Pub Theology at Archer Ale House
Tuesday, 2/25	10:30am, Women's Bible Study
Wednesday, 2/26	8:30am, Toddler time
Thursday, 2/27	8:30am, Coffee & Conversation at Makeworth 4:00pm, St. James Fitness, open to all 6:00pm, SJPC Bell Choir 7:00pm, Choir rehearsal
Next Sunday, 2/23	10:30am In-person and streamed Sunday Worship Service https://www.facebook.com/saintjamespres/

PROGRAMS SHARING OUR ST. JAMES FACILITY

AA Fairhaven Group.....	Mondays/ Thursdays
AA Grateful Hearts.....	Mondays
AA Men's Book Study Group.....	Mondays
AA SOS Men's Group.....	Wednesdays
AA Meditation Group.....	Saturdays
Bayside Co-op Preschool.....	Monday-Friday during school year
Bellingham Community Chorus.....	Tuesdays September-April
Bellingham Ukulele Group (BUG).....	1st Saturday of each month
Boy Scouts Troop 7.....	Mondays
Happy Hour AI-Anon.....	Tuesdays
Linda's Tai Chi.....	Mondays
Little Sapling Music.....	Wednesdays/ Thursdays quarterly
Overeaters Anonymous.....	Saturdays
The Table Church.....	Sundays
Wild Hearts group.....	TBD

ST. JAMES STAFF

Pastor: Seth J. Thomas, pastor@saintjamespres.org

Children & Family Director: Tracy Caruso, tracy@saintjamespres.org

Music Director: Leah Bruno, music@saintjamespres.org

Treasurer: Stefany Ness, treasurer@saintjamespres.org

Admin: Sharon King, office@saintjamespres.org

910 14th Street, Bellingham, WA 98225 360-733-1325 www.saintjamespres.org

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

Pastor Seth's Office Hours: Tuesday - Thursday 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

To schedule ahead of time: <http://www.calendly.com/pastorseththomas>
or pastor@saintjamespres.org

In consideration of others, please refrain from wearing heavy perfumes and scents, and please silence your cell phones before the service.

**You can access online worship through
our website at www.saintjamespres.org/live**

Give toward an
existing pledge:



Give to
St. James Online:

[Click Here](#)

Give to general
offering:



Stay current on activities and happenings [@saintjamespres](https://www.instagram.com/saintjamespres)

